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## A new form of *Apus barbatus* from the Victoria Falls

*by* Mr. C. W. Benson and Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin

*Received, 27th March, 1960*

*Apus barbatus hollidayi*, new subspecies.

*Description:* Differs from *A. b. barbatus* (P. L. Sclater) in its generally paler colour, tending to be more brownish, less blackish in general appearance, the difference being particularly noticeable on the mantle. Altogether darker, nevertheless, than *A. b. bradfieldi* (Roberts).

*Type:* ♂, 12th November, 1959, Fifth Gorge, Zambesi River, Victoria Falls, collected by C. S. Holliday. In the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo, no. 42500, wing 176, tail 76 mm.

*Range:* Only known from the Victoria Falls, on the boundary of Southern and Northern Rhodesia, and from Mumpswe, on the north-east of the Makarikari Salt Pan, Bechuanaland, at 20° 25′ S., 26° 00′ E.

*Remarks:* Wing-measurements of material examined are as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| *A. b. barbatus* | |
| Eastern South Africa (15) | 172–184 (177.7). |
| Eastern Southern Rhodesia (Melsetter, Inyanga, Chimanimani Mts.) (13) | 170–185 (176.0). |
| *A. b. bradfieldi* | |
| South-West Africa (14) | 170–182 (175.9). |
| *A. b. hollidayi* | |
| Victoria Falls, 2♂ | 176, 176. |
| do. 3♀ | 174, 175, 179. |
| Mumpswe 1♂ | 179. |

Apart from the type, the other four specimens from the Victoria Falls were collected by Mr. Holliday on 15th August, 1958. That from Mumpswe was collected on 27th October, 1954. It certainly agrees better in the intensity of the coloration with *A. b. hollidayi* than the other two races, only differing slightly in having an oily green tone, more especially noticeable on the underside.

The differences in colour of the three races reflects climatic differences. Thus *A. b. hollidayi* frequents a much drier area than does *A. b. barbatus* in eastern Southern Rhodesia, but not nearly so dry as that occupied by *A. b. bradfieldi* in South-West Africa. It should also be mentioned that East African birds are still darker than *A. b. barbatus*, and smaller (Lack, 'Ibis', 1956: 51).

The population occupying the Victoria Falls Gorges must be quite isolated from those of *A. b. barbatus* and *A. b. bradfieldi*, through lack of suitable breeding sites in the intervening areas.

We are very grateful to Mr. C. S. Holliday, of the Rhodes-Livingstone Museum, for putting these Victoria Falls specimens at our disposal, four of which he has presented to the Bulawayo Museum. We must also thank Mr. O. Prozesky for the loan of all the material from South Africa and South-West Africa, in the Transvaal Museum. The remainder is in the Bulawayo Museum. All these specimens have also been examined by Major I. R. Grimwood and Mr. C. M. N. White, who both agree that *A. b. hollidayi* should be recognised.

## The Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* in the Port Herald District, southern Nyasaland

*by* Rev. R. Charles Long

*Received 14th February, 1960*

The following notes supplement those by Benson, 'Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.' 78, 1958: 133–134, and are from the Port Herald District, southern Nyasaland, from the Portuguese boundary in the south, north to Tangadzi and Chiromo, from altitudes between 200 and 2,000 feet above sea-level. They are in respect of the period mid-July 1951 to early April 1956, and from late September 1957 to early October 1959. Every individual bird seen during these periods has been recorded, and the resultant figures are as follows (the figures in brackets are for a full five-year period, 1952–55 inclusive, and 1958):—

TABLE 1

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| January | 107 | (48) |
| February | 145 | (109) |
| March | 98 | (69) |
| April | 15 | (11) |
| May | 34 | (31) |
| June | 39 | (6) |
| July | 17 | (7) |
| August | 18 | (11) |
| September | 14 | (3) |
| October | 6 | (3) |
| November | 80 | (60) |
| December | 83 | (50) |

It is of course possible that some individuals have been recorded on more than one occasion, but nevertheless the above figures are a useful indication of the frequency of the species throughout the year.

In addition, I have collected specimens, assignable to either *T. v. plumbeiceps* or *T. v. granti*, as follows:—

TABLE 2

| | *T. v. plumbeiceps* | *T. v. granti* |
|---|---|---|
| January | 1 | – |
| February | 2 | – |
| March | 4 | – |
| April | 1 | – |
| May | 1 | 4 |
| June | 1 | 2 |
| July | – | 5 |
| August | – | 1 |
| September | – | 2 |
| October | 1 | – |
| November | – | – |
| December | – | – |

The specimens of *T. v. granti* have the sheen on the head green rather